

## Excerpt from Interview with Gail Marquis

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Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges

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Bartges: Would you say in your own personal experience that Title IX made a difference in your life and how?

Marquis: Yeah. Title IX made a difference in my life? Yes it did, even though I think I played one year without Title IX then Title IX came in, let's say my sophomore year of college. So it was a need. I think Title IX, it showed that women at my level, at college level, we wanted to compete, we could compete, we needed more opportunities. We didn't receive a lot of money to play. I didn't have a scholarship. None of us had scholarships. Our per diem for the Olympic Team was only seven bucks a day, what's that fifty bucks a week?

Bartges: Something like that.

Marquis: —and we were happy. And I know I had no per diem when I played in college. But those things evolved. And I know the fact that we competed, that we were there, we existed, we were successful, we kept going forward, we went to the qualifying tournaments, we went to the Olympic

Games, we did well, just those things alone, we kind of made it possible, and to have Title IX at our backs was sort of like the wind in the sail. That just kind of kept pushing us, even though we may not have known what Title IX was at that time. I'm eighteen, twenty years old. I don't know what legislation is going on. All I know is trying to get court time. Oh now here I go to Queens College we can get court time, we can get uniforms, we can get new uniforms. I don't have to have the same uniform for four years, you can get new— Those kind of things, I'm sure, was an impact from Title IX. And I just think in being successful and me personally continually pushing the envelope and going where we hadn't gone before, there was no pro league before, forced more men to come in and coach us. Not that we wanted men, but they came in. They saw there was something there. So I think all of Title IX as it kept and continues to evolve. And I wish we didn't need Title IX but we definitely do even today, 2010, you need Title IX just like you need the civil rights movements because things are still going on. You still need EEOC, Equal Opportunity Employment, things are going on, Title IX, you still need Title IX yeah, more than ever because they are more—there's more at stake and there's more in the game.